

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending with claims 9-16 added by this paper.

Specification Objection

Applicants have presented the Abstract on a separate sheet as requested by the Action. Consequently, Applicants respectfully submit that his objection should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C §112, Second Paragraph, Claim Amendments, and Other Matters

Claims 1-8 stand rejected as allegedly being indefinite. Applicants have revised claim 1 to replace "R^{17a}" with --R^{17a}--, added periods after claims 5 and 6, deleted formula I from claim 6, and rewritten claim 7 to define a pharmaceutical agent. In addition, Applicants have amended the claims to either correct typographical errors or conform the claims to typical U.S. prosecution practice. Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments do not narrow the scope of the claims.

In addition, the withdrawn subject matter has been cancelled from the claims for reasons not related to patentability. Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments do not result in a narrowing of equivalents for the other claim terms.

Applicants have also deleted the key at the bottom of page 52, and have amended claim 5 to include the terms defined by the key. Applicants respectfully submit that this amendment does not narrow the scope of the claims because it merely makes explicit what is inherent.

In view of the above remarks, favorable reconsideration is courteously requested. If there are any remaining issues which can be expedited by a telephone conference, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone counsel at the number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Buland, Reg. No. 37,432
Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)

MILLEN, WHITE, ZELANO
& BRANIGAN, P.C.
Arlington Courthouse Plaza 1, Suite 1400
2200 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22201
Telephone: (703) 243-6333
Facsimile: (703) 243-6410

Attorney Docket No.: SCH-1851

Date: December 4, 2003

JER:slm K:\sch\1851\REPLY to 9-4-03 OA.doc